

whose father, the Rev. C. Schaeffer, was a member of this Society, requested through Mr. Briggs that the proper correction should be made in the published spelling of his family name.

On motion of Dr. Le Conte, the bill of Bowen & Co., for three lithographic plates of Myriapoda, in the sum of three hundred and eighty-two dollars and seventy-two cents, was ordered to be paid by the Treasurer.

And the Society was adjourned.

OBITUARY NOTICE OF CHARLES WILKINS SHORT, M.D.

DR. SHORT was born at Greenville, Woodford County, Kentucky, on the 6th of October, 1794. His father was Peyton Short, of Surry County, Virginia, whose mother, Elizabeth Skipwith, was the daughter of Sir William Skipwith, Baronet. His own mother was Mary Symmes, daughter of John Cleves Symmes, who removed from Long Island to Cincinnati, where, after having occupied various offices of trust and honor, he died in 1814. Dr. Short had, beside a brother and sister who both died in infancy, one brother, the late Judge John Cleves Short, and one sister, the wife of Dr. Benjamin Winslow Dudley, the eminent Kentucky surgeon. He had also several half brothers and sisters, his father having married a second time.

The early part of Dr. Short's life was marked by no event of particular importance. It was noted chiefly for his exemplary conduct and love of Nature, to the development of which the wild scenery of his native village was eminently conducive. With the pleasant memories of this much-loved home of his childhood his heart was filled to his dying day. It furnished the theme for youthful poems and the picture for his boyish pencil. Greenfield was for many years the country residence of his father, being a farm of several thousand acres, in one of the most beautiful and romantic regions of Kentucky, so distinguished for the variety and grandeur of its scenery. It was here, no doubt, that he first imbibed his love for the particular science which he afterwards cultivated with so much ardor and success, and which contributed so greatly not only to his happiness but his reputation.

His primary education was obtained at the school of Mr. Joshua Fry, a celebrated teacher, under whose training were reared some of

the most distinguished divines, physicians, lawyers, and statesmen of Kentucky. It was, in fact, for a long time the only male seminary of any importance in that State. What proficiency young Short made in his studies under the instruction of this gentleman, my information does not enable me to state; that it was highly respectable may be inferred, not only from the character of his mind and his habits of industry, but from the fact that, immediately after quitting him, he was admitted into Transylvania University at Lexington, where he was graduated, with considerable honor, in 1810. He was one of the speakers on commencement day, and his address on the occasion was very warmly applauded both by the faculty and the public.

Soon after the event just referred to, young Short began the study of medicine under his uncle, Dr. Frederick Ridgely, a gentleman of considerable scientific attainment, and for many years one of the leading practitioners of Kentucky. In 1813 he repaired to Philadelphia, where he became a private pupil of Dr. Caspar Wistar, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania. He remained in the office of this distinguished teacher until he was graduated in the Medical Department of this institution in the spring of 1815. The thesis which he presented on the occasion was on the medicinal virtues of *Juniperus Sabina*, and was treated with marked ability. During his residence in Philadelphia he was a diligent and zealous pupil, and devoted much attention to the study of botany, a branch of science in which he was destined to become so conspicuous. A warm attachment sprung up during this period between the professor and the pupil, which continued until the former died in 1818, universally beloved and honored, with a reputation coextensive with our continent. That such should have been the case is not surprising when we consider the character of the two men. Wistar was an eminently amiable man, of the most engaging manners and of remarkable conversational powers; he was the idol of his classes, and probably the most popular teacher of his day in this country. His social position was of the highest order, and he was the founder of the parties which have since borne his name, and which have contributed so much to the elevation of the social character of Philadelphia. His fondness for young men was proverbial; he encouraged them in their studies and aided them with his counsel and even with his purse. The letters which young Short brought with him from eminent citizens of the West secured him at once the *entrée* to his house; they saw each other constantly, and when the young backwoodsman at length left Philadelphia, his greatest regret was at

parting with his beloved preceptor and friend. As a proof of this attachment, I may mention that Dr. Wistar presented to his pupil a cherished case of eye instruments, the trusty companions of a long lifetime, which now, that his own eye was becoming dimmed with age, he hoped would be of service in restoring the sight of the blind in the hands of his promising young friend after his return to the wilds of Kentucky.

In November, 1815, Dr. Short was united in matrimony to Mary Henry Churchill, only child of Armistead and Jane Henry Churchill, the latter of whom, after the death of her husband, became the second wife of Mr. Peyton Short. This circumstance occurred while Charles W. Short, the subject of this sketch, and Mary H. Churchill were children, who were thus brought into the same family circle. Of this alliance, in every respect one of supreme happiness, six children survive, one son and five daughters, all of whom, excepting the youngest, are married, and in a prosperous condition.

Soon after his marriage he returned with his wife to Kentucky, travelling the entire distance in a spring wagon. The journey, although tedious and fatiguing, was replete with interest, on account of the beauty of the scenery along the route, and often formed the topic of pleasant reminiscences in after years. He now settled at Lexington, in his native State, but, not succeeding to his wishes, he shortly after removed to Hopkinsville, where he entered into partnership with Dr. Webber, and very soon obtained a large practice. It was while living here, in a wild, hilly, and romantic region of country, now highly cultivated and densely populated, that he devoted himself, with all the ardor of an enthusiast, to those botanical researches which formed the basis of his future reputation and the great source of his future happiness. No plant, or shrub, or tree escaped his notice. His daily rides through the country, rendered necessary by his practice, were invariably productive of some botanical trophies, which, carefully dried and preserved, thus assisted in laying the foundation of one of the richest and most valuable private herbariums ever collected in this or any other country. The researches in which he was thus so assiduously engaged soon brought him into favorable notice with scientific men, and served to establish for him a certain degree of reputation, apart from that of the mere practice of his profession, for which he seems never to have had any particular fondness.

In 1825 he was called to the chair of *Materia Medica* and Medical Botany in Transylvania University at Lexington, his former home. This school, then recently organized, was rapidly rising into distine-

tion, and was destined eventually, though only for a short period, to occupy a very prominent position in the public eye. A wide field of glory and usefulness now lay before him, and he was not slow in availing himself of its advantages. Most of his associates in the school were men of mark and merit. Dr. Benjamin W. Dudley, his brother-in-law, the incumbent of the surgical chair, had already achieved a high reputation as a teacher and an operator; patients flocked to him from all parts of the Mississippi Valley, and in a short time he became the great lithotomist of America. His only rivals were Physick and Mott; but, owing to the great distance which separated him from them, they were so only in name. He was literally, for a number of years, "monarch of all he surveyed."

Dr. Charles Caldwell graced the chair of the Institutes of Medicine. A resident of Philadelphia, a man of great and varied talents, well read in and out of his profession, his fame had preceded him to Lexington; and it is but justice to say that he contributed most largely, by his writings and teachings, to build up and give temporary *éclat* to its medical school. His tongue and pen were never idle. A more majestic figure on the rostrum could hardly be imagined. Tall and erect in person, with a noble head and a piercing black eye, he was the *beau idéal* of an elegant, entertaining, and accomplished lecturer. He was eloquent, but too artificial, for he had cultivated elocution too much before the mirror.

Dr. Daniel Drake, afterwards so distinguished as a teacher and a writer, had only a few years before made his debut in public. Emphatically a self-made man, he possessed genius of a superior order, and successfully coped with his colleagues for the highest place in the school. Of all the medical teachers I have ever known he was, all things considered, one of the most able, captivating, and impressive. There was an earnestness, a fiery zeal about him in the lecture-room, which encircled his person, as it were, with a halo of glory. The great work which he has left behind him on the "Diseases of the Mississippi Valley," attests his industry and talents, and forms a monument to his memory as enduring as the vast region of country whose maladies he has so glowingly and faithfully portrayed.

Dr. Holley, a man of brilliant talents, elegant accomplishments, and superior literary attainments, was President of the University; and, although not immediately connected with the medical department, nevertheless exerted considerable influence on its destiny. Lexington, emphatically the garden spot of Kentucky, was at that time justly regarded as the "Athens of the West;" its University had high pretensions; it was the home of Henry Clay; its bar was famous

throughout the land; and its women were noted for their personal charms and great accomplishments.

With such men as his compeers, Dr. Short had every inducement for exertion; and there is reason to believe that, quiet and unostentatious as he was, he exercised no ordinary influence in sustaining the reputation of the University. His heart and soul were thoroughly in the work. The school soon rose to an unprecedented degree of prosperity, which it steadily maintained until the dissolution of its great Faculty in 1837.

In 1828 he founded, along with his colleague, Dr. John Esten Cooke, the "Transylvania Journal of Medicine and the Associate Sciences." With this publication, which for a long time wielded an important influence in moulding the opinions and practice of the great body of physicians of the Southwest, he continued his connection until the close of the fourth volume, zealously laboring for its interests and those of Transylvania University, whose prosperity it was more particularly designed to promote. In this periodical is to be found nearly everything that Dr. Short ever contributed to the public press.

In 1837, the Medical Department of Transylvania University, after a period of eighteen years of extended usefulness and remarkable fame, experienced a violent convulsion, which shook it to its very centre. Dissatisfaction of a serious character had existed for several years among some of the Faculty in regard to the manner of conducting its affairs. The school had grown too large for the place where it was located; there was a great dearth of anatomical material, and clinical instruction was, in great measure, neglected on account of the absence of hospital facilities. Owing to these circumstances a part of the Faculty withdrew, and accepted chairs in the medical school at Louisville, whither Dr. Short soon followed, although the Trustees of the University, upon reorganizing the Faculty, had reappointed him to his former situation.

In the University of Louisville, then a young but destined soon to be a gigantic institution, Short had the same chair as the one he had just vacated at Lexington. Here he quietly and unostentatiously pursued "the even tenor of his way," devoting himself to botanical researches and literary studies, and zealously co-operating with his distinguished colleagues, of whom the great Drake was again one, in promoting the interests and prosperity of the school, which soon rose to an extraordinary height, students flocking to it from all sections of the Mississippi Valley, until its spacious halls were completely crowded. The number of its pupils in 1847 was upwards of 400. Such

rapid success had never before been witnessed in any medical university on this continent.

Becoming tired of medical teaching, Dr. Short dissolved his connection with the Louisville school in 1849, and retired to Hayfield, a beautiful and charming residence five miles from the city. A more lovely spot than this could hardly be imagined. The dwelling, the former abode of a gentleman of taste and refinement, was an elegant mansion, with all the conveniencies of a city house. It was furnished in the best Kentucky style, and overlooked a rich lawn of almost perpetual verdure, such as might have charmed Calypso and her nymphs. It was surrounded by stately elm trees; close by was an immense spring of the coldest and most limpid water; the rear was skirted by a beautiful piece of woodland; and at one side was an ample garden, set out in shrubbery and plants, native and exotic, many of them set out by Dr. Short's own hands. The farm, comprising several hundred acres, was highly cultivated, and stocked with Southdown sheep and choice cattle. It was here, in the bosom of his family, that he spent the evening of his life, in the enjoyment of an elegant leisure, diversified by literary and scientific pursuits.

The country for miles around Hayfield is bewitchingly beautiful; it is thickly settled, and in a very high state of cultivation. The traveller, as he slowly winds his way along its public roads, is instinctively attracted by the magnificence of the landscape. The wildness of the natural scenery has given way to ample fields, intersected by elegant fences, and dotted with groves and dwellings, buried in shrubbery, or reposing under the foliage of widespread elms, oaks, and beeches. Here and there is a large mansion, or the neat New England cottage, the abode of wealth and elegant refinement; the whole forming a grand tableau, well calculated to warm the imagination and inspire the soul of a pastoral poet.

It had always been one of the cherished objects of his life to have a house in the country, such were his love of nature and his distaste of city excitement. Even during his residence at Louisville, where his winters were occupied with his college duties, his summers were devoted to the improvement of a pretty little place on the Ohio River, near North Bend, which he called "Fern Bank," from the fact that it abounded in plants of that name. Here with his family around him, in the neighborhood of the residence of a much-loved and only brother, his time was spent much more in accordance with his tastes than in the noise and bustle of the city.

His only patrimony, in early life, was a good name; but by untiring industry and economy he eventually accumulated a moderate but

independent fortune, which was considerably augmented, in 1849, by the death of his uncle, William Short, Esq., of Philadelphia, of whose estate he was one of the principal heirs. To this uncle Dr. Short was greatly attached; he made him not only frequent visits but maintained a constant correspondence with him, his letters, down to the time of his death, numbering upwards of five hundred. From a memorandum now before me it seems that he was a native of Virginia, having been born in Surry County in that State in 1759. "His life, public and private," records the tombstone erected to his memory at Laurel Hill Cemetery, "was distinguished by ability, probity and industry never questioned. He received from President Washington, with the unanimous approval of the Senate, the first appointment to public office conferred under the Constitution of the United States; and from President Jefferson, whose affectionate friendship he always largely possessed, proofs of similar confidence." Mr. Short lived for a considerable time in France, first as secretary to Mr. Jefferson, and afterwards as a private citizen. He was at Paris during the most eventful period in the history of France, and, indeed, of all Europe. As a citizen of Philadelphia, he occupied a prominent position, and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of a large circle of acquaintances and admiring friends.

His botanical researches brought Dr. Short in relation with many of the most distinguished scientific men of Europe and America. Prominent, among the former, were Sir William Hooker, director of the Royal Gardens at Kew, near London; De Candolle, of France; Joachim Steets, of Hamburg; Professor C. F. Meisner, of Switzerland; Uzrelli, of Italy; Thomas Nuttall and Mr. Wilson, of England. With Sir William Hooker, whose death at the age of eighty was only recently recorded, he was in constant communication for upwards of twenty years, and a large volume of his letters is now in the possession of the family. This correspondence, begun as a purely professional one, soon ripened into the most intimate intercourse, which manifested itself in various acts of kindness and the interchange of little mementoes, always gratifying to scientific men.

His American correspondents were too numerous to be mentioned. Among the most valued and distinguished were Asa Gray, Torrey, Darlington, Bachman, Agassiz, Engelmann, Audubon, Meade, Carey, Curtis, Lapham, and Durand. Dr. Gray was a warm friend of Dr. Short, and soon after his death he published in *Silliman's Journal*, a beautiful and appropriate tribute to his memory.

He was a member of various scientific societies, both foreign and domestic. After his death, a number of diplomas were found among

his papers, but so retiring was he in his disposition and habits, and so modest in his intercourse with the world, that no little difficulty was experienced in hunting up these honors, for which he seems to have cared very little.

“As a lecturer,” says one who intimately knew him as a friend and colleague—Professor Henry Miller, of Louisville,—“his style was chaste, concise, and classical, and his manner always grave and dignified. His lectures were always carefully written, and read with a good voice and correct emphasis. He never made the least attempt at display, nor set a clap trap in all his life.” His courteous deportment made him a favorite alike with his pupils and his colleagues, the latter of whom he served for a number of years, both at Lexington and Louisville, as Dean, an office of no little importance in a medical school. He hated controversy, and never engaged in any of the medical quarrels at one time so rife at these two places.

In stature Dr. Short was of medium height, well proportioned, with light hair and complexion, blue eyes, and an ample forehead. His features, when lighted up by a smile, were radiant with goodness and beneficence. In his manner he was graceful, calm, and dignified; so much so that one coming into his presence for the first time, might have supposed him to be haughty and ascetic; such, however, was not the case. A kinder heart never vibrated in a human breast. Naturally mild and amiable, he had all of a woman's gentleness, with a mind of inflexible firmness upon all questions of duty. Of a sensitive, diffident disposition, he rather shunned than courted society, and never appeared to greater advantage than in the bosom of his own family, or in the midst of a few select friends. As he advanced in life, he grew more serious, but never was morose or even cynical. The sanctity of his heart was never invaded by such a feeling. He had studied God and man too closely; had enjoyed too great a degree of happiness and prosperity to cherish such a sentiment, or to exhibit such a trait in his intercourse with the world. I have the testimony of one who knew him well and intimately that he never saw any person who enjoyed more heartily an agreeable anecdote, or an innocent and amusing story. All his impulses, in fact, were of the noblest and most generous nature. The poor never knocked at the door of his heart without a prompt response. His moral character was untarnished. No one ever dared to impugn his motives, or to call in question the purity of his acts. As has been well observed by one of his scientific friends, he had an uncompromising sense of justice, and a keen hatred of everything mean and unworthy. He was a model man; a model philosopher; a model Christian. As a husband and father, his

character reached perfection as nearly as is, perhaps, possible. His family not only loved, but revered him. His children often accompanied him in his botanical excursions, and assisted him in drying and arranging his specimens. One of his daughters, in referring to these labors, assures me that many of the happiest recollections of her childhood are connected with these excursions. "To those," she continues, "who met my father as colleagues, or as mere acquaintances, but little was known of his character in domestic life; only those who were the recipients of his deep affection, as wife and children, can form even a faint idea of his goodness. His home was truly his heaven on earth."

In his relation to those who were placed by Providence under his charge as servants, he was truly "the friend in need;" he treated them with real parental kindness, and spared no pains to improve their moral and religious character. Soon after he moved to Hayfield, three old negroes, once the property of his father, sought his care and protection, in order that they might die under his hospitable roof. Two of them had been free for thirty years.

In regard to his religious views, Dr. Short connected himself early in life with the Presbyterian Church, of which he remained a faithful and consistent member up to the time of his death. He made no ostentatious parade of his piety. The same retiring disposition, the same modesty and gentle demeanor that characterized his outer-life, attended him here. Without entering into details, it may be stated that there is every reason to believe that he rendered to his God a good account of the talents committed to his keeping. His very profession, as a practical botanist, brought him in daily communion with the Creator. A naturalist can neither be a skeptic nor a bad man. He finds a sermon in every plant, in every stone, in every living thing. The direct tendency of the study of the sciences, of botany in particular, is to refine and humanize our tastes, and to inspire us with love and reverence for the Deity. "Consider the lilies of the field how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin; and yet I say unto you that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." Botany is emphatically the poetry of the sciences, or, as has been beautifully remarked by one of its most able and successful cultivators, "the amiable science."

When Dr. Short left the University of Louisville, the Board of Trustees, at once, as a just tribute to his long and faithful services, elected him Emeritus Professor of *Materia Medica* and Medical Botany; while his colleagues united in a complimentary letter, expressive of their warm personal regard, and of their hope that he

might find in his retirement the ease and comfort for which he had so long sighed.

He was now in the fifty-fifth year of his age, with all his faculties, mental and corporeal, in full vigor. It was believed that one of the objects he had in view in quitting the school was to write a work on the botany of the Southwestern States, for which he had long been engaged in collecting material. His herbarium was one of the most extensive and complete in the country, and few, if any, were so thoroughly and intimately acquainted with its flora. With descriptive powers of a high order, with leisure at once elegant and refined, with a scholarly mind and independent wealth, he was capable of producing a work of the most profound interest and value, replete in originality and calculated to reflect vast credit, not only upon himself as an able and finished botanist, but upon the scientific character of the nation. He might, in a word, have effected for his favorite science what Wilson and Audubon so happily effected for ornithology. But, strange to say, he never accomplished his purpose. He seemed to be afraid to enter upon the task. Writing was distasteful to him, and his days and nights passed without yielding any scientific fruits. His vast collection of dried specimens, one of the richest of the kind in the world, is now in the possession of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; and other hands than his will, doubtless, ultimately delineate and describe it. It was originally bequeathed to the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, but as there was no suitable apartment for its preservation, it was fortunately sent to this city, whose scientific men cannot fail to appreciate its value and importance, and to render it ultimately available to the permanent fame of its author.

Most of Dr. Short's time during his residence at Hayfield, was spent in his herbarium, a model of elegance and neatness. It was, in fact, his daily study, absorbing nearly all his attention, especially in the winter. Here, year after year, he prepared, arranged and labelled his specimens, receiving and sending collections to all parts of the civilized globe, mainly through the hands of European botanists, and they through their colonies in more remote regions. In this labor, one of love and almost of necessity to him, he was often assisted by his daughters, many of whose happiest moments were thus spent in his presence, under circumstances of the most gratifying and delightful nature. The labels used upon his specimens were generally printed by their own hands by means of a small home-made press.

In summer his garden afforded him great delight in the planting

and propagation of various plants and trees, which he often watched with the most tender care and the greatest interest. Neither Wilson nor Audubon ever watched a bird with more solicitude than he his flowers. His garden was spread over several acres, and few persons visited Hayfield without an introduction to it. For the more commonplace routine of his farm he had little or no taste, although it was one of the most magnificent in Kentucky. A general superintendence was all the attention he bestowed upon it.

Thus were his latter days passed—in the garden in summer, in the herbarium in winter—until about two years before his death, when he was seized with great debility and ennui, and seemed to have lost, in a great degree, his interest in things around him. His last illness was pneumonia, which soon assumed a typhoid form, and terminated his valuable life on the 7th of March, 1863, in the sixty-ninth year of his age. He sank away so quietly and calmly that the friends who watched him scarcely knew when the spirit fled. His remains repose in Cave Hill Cemetery, near Louisville.

The name of Dr. Short is commemorated by a number of plants, a list of which has been kindly furnished me by Mr. Durand, of this city, himself an able and accomplished botanist.

1st. *Genus Shortia*, founded by Professor Asa Gray, on a plant of the *Pyrola* family, discovered by Michaux on the mountains of North Carolina.

2d. A cruciferous plant, *Vesicaria Shortii*, described by Professor Torrey, and discovered by Dr. Short on the banks of Elkhorn Creek, Lexington, Kentucky.

3d. A leguminous plant, *Phaca Shortiana* of Nuttall, found in Missouri.

4th. *Aster Shortii*, so named by Boott, growing in Ohio, Wisconsin, and other regions.

5th. *Solidago Shortii*, of Torrey and Gray, discovered at the Falls of the Ohio.

6th. *Carex Shortiana* of Dewey, extending from Southern Pennsylvania beyond Illinois.

It will thus be seen that five eminent botanists have paid a just tribute to one whom they honored as an able and indefatigable laborer in the same field of science which they themselves have so earnestly and successfully cultivated. A stronger proof than this of the high appreciation and affectionate regard in which Dr. Short was held by them, could not be afforded. They seemed to have vied with each other to gratify him during his lifetime, and to perpetuate his name

and fame after his death. Such acts are a beautiful reflection of the purity and unselfishness of the soul of science.

His love for his favorite science was so great, his desire for a diffusion of its knowledge so ardent, that he gave away not only all that he could spare from his own magnificent herbarium, but was a constant subscriber to all the North American collections within his reach. He planned and effectually aided several distant and difficult botanical explorations; and he purchased, at a liberal price, the rich herbarium of Berlandier, the fruit of extensive researches in Texas and Mexico.

He had a large and select library, containing about 3000 volumes, one-fourth of which were rare and costly botanical works, of which he was very fond. He possessed a fine literary taste, and always perused the choicest books. He had, however, a higher opinion of the authors of the past than those of the present generation, esteeming Fielding and Sir Walter Scott as far superior to the moderns. The latter was his great favorite; he had the best editions of his works, and a volume of them was always to be found upon his table. Several magnificent engravings of Sir Walter hung about the house, and he was very familiar with his life and character as drawn by Lockhart. Notwithstanding his love of classical and scientific knowledge, he was very fond of mechanical pursuits, and often amused himself in binding his loose papers into volumes, constructing the wooden eases for his plants, and making various little alterations and repairs about the place.

The writings of Dr. Short are extremely limited. If collected in book-form they would hardly fill a duodecimo volume of three hundred pages. They relate, for the most part, to botanical topics, and consist principally of articles contributed to the "Transylvania Journal of Medicine," of which, as already stated, he was for some time an editor. They all evince the accuracy and good taste which he carried into everything he attempted. In 1826, soon after his appointment to the chair of *Materia Medica* in Transylvania University, he commenced, in that journal, the publication of a series of papers designed to illustrate the nature of the vegetable productions of the neighborhood of Lexington and the circumjacent parts of Kentucky. He became particularly impressed with the want of such a guide while engaged, during the previous summer, in delivering, to a small class of students, a course of lectures on botany. His object was to furnish a complete local flora, similar in principle to that of Dr. Darlington, of the plants of West Chester, Pennsylvania. The only two systematic treatises on American botany then extant were those

of the elder Michaux and of Pursh, the former published at Paris in 1803, the latter at London in 1814. The works of Bigelow, Barton, and Darlington, issued at a later period, were of a purely local character, and could therefore be of no special service to Western pupils. The papers thus commenced were continued until 1845.

The next article from his pen was one on the "Cultivation of certain Medicinal Plants," in which he drew the attention of the profession to the importance of cultivating various substances of the materia medica, such, for example, as digitalis, senna, poppy, and castor oil, with a view of securing a more reliable supply of drugs. The subject had engaged much of his reflection, and he expressed great confidence in our ability to furnish these and other articles of superior quality.

"Notices of Western Botany and Conchology,"—a paper jointly published by himself and Mr. H. Halbert Eaton—appeared in 1830, in the fourth volume of the *Transylvania Journal*. They comprise a brief account of the plants found between Lexington and the Ohio River, a distance of about eighty miles, traversed by the explorers for the most part on foot. As the season was unusually dry, an excellent opportunity was afforded them of examining the shells of this celebrated stream, and also of the contiguous portions of the Great Miami River. Hardly two years had elapsed from the time of this agreeable and instructive ramble when Dr. Short was called upon to mourn the death of his associate, a man of extraordinary promise as a naturalist, and universally beloved and esteemed for his amiable and social qualities. In an address, delivered at the opening of the session of the *Transylvania University* in 1832, Dr. Short pronounced a feeling and eloquent eulogy upon his life and character. Mr. Eaton was quite young at the time of his death. His zeal in the pursuit of science had early lighted the fire which consumed him. "Science' self destroyed her favorite son."

Soon after this he published an elaborate paper, entitled "Instructions for the Gathering and Preservation of Plants in Herbaria," in which he depicts, in glowing terms and at full length, the manual labor of a botanist in forming his collection, and in arranging and labelling his specimens. Appearing, as it did, at a period when very little was known upon those subjects in this country, it must have been of great service to the young men engaged in this pursuit, so delightful and invigorating alike to mind and body. What student of Nature is there that cannot appreciate the feeling so eloquently expressed by the great and good Elliott, one who himself so often worshipped at her shrine, in the following sentence: "The

study of natural history," says he, "has been for many years the occupation of my leisure moments; it is a merited tribute to say that it has lightened for me many a heavy and smoothed many a rugged hour; that, beguiled by its charms, I have found no road solitary, rough or difficult, no journey tedious, no country desolate or barren. In solitude never solitary, in a desert never without employment, I have found it a relief from the languor of idleness, the pressure of business, and the unavoidable calamities of life."

In 1836 he contributed an article on Botanical Bibliography, comprising a notice of some of the more recent treatises on American botany. When this paper was published upwards of twenty years had elapsed since he had entered upon his favorite study with hardly any works to guide him. Now he was able to refer the young votary to the admirable productions of Torrey, Drummond, Hooker, Beck, Gray, and others; men who, like himself, have accomplished so much in diffusing a taste for the cultivation of this "amiable science," and whose names will be forever honorably associated with the progress of natural history in the United States.

The *Bibliographia Botanica* was speedily followed by "A Second Supplementary Catalogue of the Plants of Kentucky," a paper based upon his botanical explorations of that State in 1835, and embracing an account of nearly two hundred species added to the number previously described by him. A considerable number of these plants had either been unknown or had never been introduced into any of the systematic treatises on American botany.

Then followed a "Sketch of the Progress of Botany in Western America," a short but most instructive article, affording a full account of the improvements in our botanical knowledge since the commencement of the present century. The interest of the article is greatly enhanced by the fact that it is interspersed with brief sketches of the lives and services of our most distinguished botanists. Soon after this appeared his "Third Supplementary Catalogue of the Plants of Kentucky," comprising a brief description of the plants observed by him since the publication of his former contributions to the subject.

In 1845 he wrote a paper, entitled "Observations on the Botany of Illinois." It was addressed, in the form of a letter, to one of his colleagues, Dr. Drake, and was published in the "Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery," edited by that distinguished teacher and philosopher. It was, if I do not err, his last contribution to a medical periodical,—probably the last he ever composed. It was written with special reference to the autumnal flora of the prairies. In the

journey which he undertook for the purpose, and which was performed in the latter part of summer, Dr. Short was accompanied by his brother and several intimate friends, on account of the interest they took in the objects of the tour. He travelled in a light covered wagon, purposely constructed for the accommodation of an extensive collection, and he was constantly on the lookout for everything of interest. He passed over a distance of nearly four hundred miles, including the best portion of the State of Illinois, and returned, late in the season, laden with botanical treasures. The emotions he experienced on beholding, for the first time, a large prairie, is thus graphically described: "On reaching the centre of one of these immense natural meadows, the view presented to the eye of a novice in such scenery is one of the most pleasing sort. But beautiful, imposing, and grand as is this spectacle, I must own that, in a botanical point of view, I was disappointed! The flora of the prairies—the theme of so much admiration to those who view them with an ordinary eye—does not, when closely examined by the botanist, present that deep interest and attraction which he has been led to expect. The leading feature is rather the unbounded profusion with which a few species occur in certain localities than the mixed variety of many different species occurring everywhere." Certain plants seemed to monopolize, if such an expression be allowable, certain districts, extending, perhaps, over thousands of acres, and exhibiting the appearance of a vast flowering garden, of almost every shade of color, from the purest white to the deepest yellow, red, or purple. What particularly struck him was the remarkable absence of ferns, and the astonishing paucity of mosses, in these prairies. Of the former he did not meet with a single specimen of any species of the extensive tribe in the more open meadows,—a circumstance evidently due, as he supposed, to the want of shade and moisture in which most of these plants so much delight.

The above catalogue comprises, so far as I know, all, or nearly all, that Dr. Short ever wrote upon botany. His other writings consisted mainly, if not wholly, of medical cases and college addresses.

In 1830, he communicated to the *Transylvania Journal of Medicine* the particulars of a case, then considered as very curious, of spontaneous combustion of the human body. The subject was a female, of intemperate habits, upwards of sixty-five years of age. Without fully endorsing the idea of the possibility of such an occurrence, he expressed the opinion that it was an example of a more general destruction of the human body by caloric than could easily be explained upon ordinary principles, or the amount of combustible material present on the

occasion. The whole question relative to this subject is still an open one.

A case of paralysis of the kidneys occurs in the third volume of the Journal. At the time this case was published only a few examples of this singular disease, described by Dr. John Mason Good, the celebrated author of the "Book of Nature," and of an erudite treatise on Medicine, under the name of *paruria inops*, had been recorded. The late Dr. George Hayward, of Boston, was the first to call attention to it in this country. An instance of it had previously been published by Sir Henry Hallford, physician to George IV.

Another case of disease, deserving of brief mention, was one of polyp of the face, successfully treated by tartar emetic. The cure seems to have been perfect; for the woman, when last seen, three years afterwards, was entirely well. The tumor, apparently seated in the antrum, involved the upper jaw, and had assumed quite a threatening aspect when the patient was put under treatment, consisting of the internal use of a weak solution of tartrate of antimony and potassa, steadily persisted in for six months.

In 1824, Dr. Short had the misfortune to lose his venerated preceptor and early friend, Dr. Frederick Ridgely, of Lexington, Kentucky, and soon after this event he published a beautiful and well-merited eulogy upon his life and character. A native of Maryland, from which he had early emigrated to the West, Ridgely had been a surgeon in the Continental army, and for more than thirty years an eminent practitioner at Lexington. He was present at a number of the battles of the Revolution, possessed uncommon professional skill, had a well-cultivated mind and the most agreeable manners, and was especially noted for his charitableness to the needy and his unrequited services to the poor. Many of the most distinguished physicians of Kentucky, in his day, were his private pupils. Dr. Short was not only warmly attached to him, but loved him with filial affection.

In 1835, he published "A Brief Historical Sketch of the Origin and Progress of Cholera Asphyxia," based upon information mainly derived, as he himself states, from accounts of this disease in professed treatises and the reports of physicians and boards of health in various parts of the world. He traces the march of this frightful distemper from its first appearance in the Delta of the Ganges in 1817, to its irruption in June, 1833, at Lexington, whose population it completely decimated, carrying off more than six hundred persons in the space of a few weeks, in a city, which, up to that time, was regarded as so salubrious as to induce the belief in the minds of its most enlightened physicians that an outbreak of the epidemic would be a matter of impossibility.